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ANNUAL REPORT

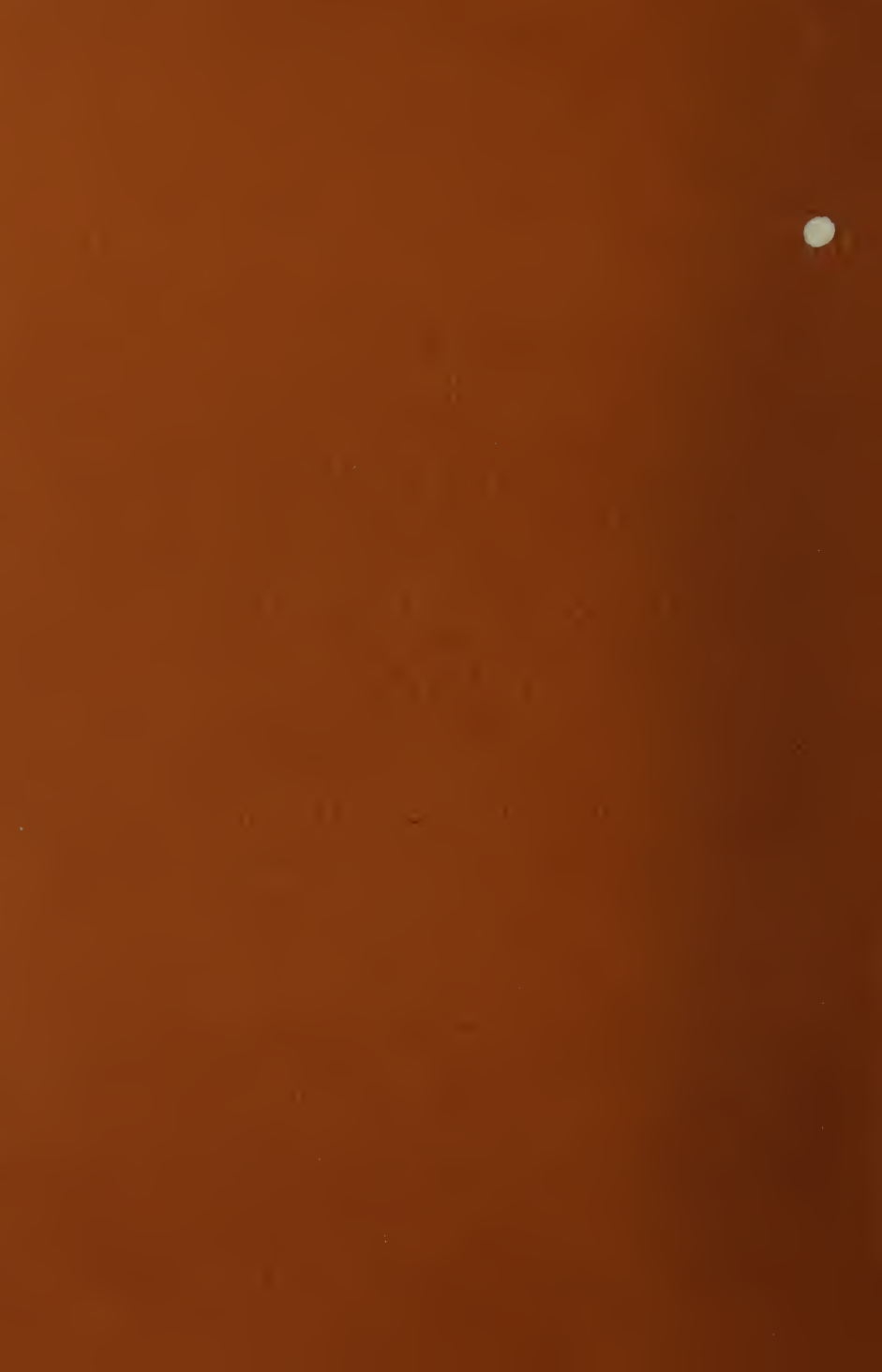
upon

The **HEALTH** of the
RURAL DISTRICT OF
PONTYPOOL

For the Year 1946.

J. C. H. BIRD,

Medical Officer of Health.



RIVERSIDE HOUSE,

USK, Mon.,

July, 1947.

*To the Chairman and Members of the
Rural District Council of Pontypool.*

Gentlemen,

I beg to tender the Medical Officer of Health's Annual Report for the year 1946.

Public Health Officers of the Rural District.

Clerk & Medical Officer - Part Time.

Surveyor - Whole Time.

Sanitary Inspector - Whole Time (jointly with Usk U.D.C.).

Veterinary Surgeon

Public Analyst

Vaccination Officer

Health Visitors

} Monmouthshire County Council.

Social Conditions in the Rural District.

The district comprises seven parishes with a total area of 34,147 acres and is predominately agricultural with slight urbanisation at Croesyceiliog.

There is a large explosives filling factory at Glascoed with an ancillary factory at Goetre which employ several thousand operatives, the majority of whom are drawn from surrounding urban areas.

The Registrar-General's estimate of the population in mid 1946, was 5,569.

Rateable Value—£25,511.

Product of a penny rate—£103.

Number of dwelling houses—1,520.

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE DISTRICT.

Maternity and Child Welfare.

Clinics for the above purpose are provided by the County Council and are held at Usk, Pontypool and Croesyceiliog.

Nursing in the Home.

District nurses supported by Nursing associations and the County Council function throughout the district.

Laboratory Facilities.

Water samples and pathological specimens are examined and reported upon by the County Pathologist.

Ambulance Services.

An ambulance stationed at Usk is available free of charge to ratepayers and their dependants in the district. (Phone Usk 212).

Hospital Facilities.

Medical & Surgical—

Pontypool and District Hospital.
Royal Gwent Hospital.
Panteg Hospital (County Council).

Maternity—

Cefn Ila Maternity Home.
Llanfrehfa Grange (County Council).
Lydia Beynon Maternity Hospital (County Council for abnormal cases).
Nantyerry House (for unmarried mothers).

Infectious Diseases (by arrangement)—

Bedwellty Hospital.
Buckholt Hospital, Monmouth (closed pro tem.).
Chepstow Isolation Hospital.

Venereal Diseases—

Royal Gwent Hospital.

Mental Disorders—

Abergavenny Mental Hospital.

VACCINATION.

Vaccination is performed free of charge by a public vaccinator appointed by the County Council.

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION.

Immunisation is performed free of charge by all practitioners in the district.

Immunisation in relation to Child Population. (Dec. 1946).

Age at 31.12.46	Under 15	1	2	2	4	5-9	10-14	Total
	1946	1945	1944	1943	1942	1937-41	1932-36	under 15
<i>i.e.</i> Born in year								
Number Immunised	1	42	75	102	131	280	255	886
Estimated mid-year population		427					760	1187

Number of Notifications of Diphtheria during 1946—1.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Thirty-three cases of infectious disease were notified during the year and of these it was found necessary to remove four to isolation hospitals.

The population is dependent upon the good offices of neighbouring Councils for the reception and treatment of its cases of infectious disease and the provision of a County Infectious Diseases hospital supported by the rates where cases may be isolated and treated as by right and not by favour is long overdue.

ANALYSIS OF CASES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Puerperal Pyrexia	..	16	(all occurring at Llanfrechfa Grange.
Scarlet Fever	..	6	
Whooping Cough	..	2	
Pneumonia	..	1	
Measles	..	3	
Diphtheria	..	1	
Malaria	..	1	
Poliomyelitis	..	3	

The three cases of infantile paralysis (anterior poliomyelitis) all occurred in one family. Two cases were very slightly affected and one, who was removed to hospital, severely affected. The necessary steps of isolation of contacts and disinfection were all taken where necessary.

TUBERCULOSIS.

Ten new cases of pulmonary tuberculosis were registered during 1946. Owing to shortage of nursing staff in tuberculosis sanatoria about nine months elapses between diagnosis and admission to a sanatorium. The position at 31st December, 1946 was :—

Males		Females		Total
Pulmonary.	Non-Pulmonary.	Pulmonary.	Non-Pulmonary..	
12	5	7	6	30

WATER SUPPLIES.

The district receives its water supplies from mains in those areas where the population is sufficiently numerous or alongside main roads where the piped supply is in reasonable proximity and from wells in the more rural parts. The Rural District Council supply the Parish of Llanfrechfa Lower purchasing in bulk for Croesyeceiliog from the Pontypool Gas and Water Company and for Ponthir from the Newport Borough Council while for all other districts where there is a piped supply the Pontypool Gas and Water Company are the suppliers direct.

Number of Houses supplied direct from mains — 433.

Number of Houses supplied from stand pipes — 22.

Thirty one samples of treated water were taken from the main supply during the year. Of these 19 were found to be bacteriologically and chemically satisfactory while 12 were unsatisfactory.

The twelve unsatisfactory samples were all found at Little Mill and Llanfrechfa during the month of June. Immediate consultations were held with the Water Company concerned and also the County Sanitary Inspector and the matter was rectified by early July after which there was no further trouble.

The wells in the district are kept under close supervision but on the whole the water supplied is not up to standard.

The water supplied from the mains has no plumbo-solvent action.

SEWAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL.

The Council has provided a scheme covering Croesyceiliog, The Garw and Lower Pontnewydd with which about 226 houses are connected. Certain of the houses now under erection have water carriage systems but on the whole the situation of the houses in the District does not lend itself to a comprehensive system on an economic basis.

The majority of the farm houses and farm labourers cottages have earth or water closets draining to adjoining land.

VITAL STATISTICS FOR 1946.

		Males	Females
Total Deaths (per Registrar) ..	67	36	31
Transfers (In)	18	9	9
Transfers (Out)	6	6	0
Corrected Deaths	79	39	40

Death Rate per 1,000 :— 14.3

Death Rate for County of Monmouth :— 11.7.

Death Rate for Emgland & Wales :— 11.5.

CAUSES OF DEATHS.

	Males.	Females.
Typhoid and Paratyphoid	—	1
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	2	—
Influenza	1	—
Poliomyelitis	—	1
Cancer of Stomach	3	2
Cancer of Breast	—	1
Cancer all other sites	7	1
Intracranial vasclar lesions	4	7
Heart Disease	10	17
Bronchitis	3	1
Other respiratory Diseases.. ..	4	—
Appendicitis	—	1
Other digestive diseases	—	1
Nephritis	1	1
All other causes	4	5

	Males	Females	Total
Total Births	302	279	581
Corrected after transfer	47	52	99
Legitimate	44	50	94
Illegitimate	3	2	5

Born at Llanfrechfa Grange :— 498.

Born at Nantyberry House :— 11.

Birth Rate per 1,000 :— 17.8.

Birth Rate for County of Monmouth :— 19.9.

Deaths of Children under one year of age.

Total deaths under one month :—3.

Total deaths under one year :— 1.

Infantile Mortality Rate :— 40.1.

County Rate :— 47.6.

There were no deaths from puerperal sepsis or other puerperal causes.

CONCLUSION.

The health of the Pontypool Rural District has been good throughout the year 1946 and no circumstances prejudicial to the public health have arisen which could not be dealt with locally.

In common with the rest of the country the housing shortage is acute and there are a number of cases of unavoidable overcrowding.

The houses which are under construction are of a pleasing type and a great advance upon the older types of agricultural workers' dwellings. Every effort should be made in the new houses to provide a method of sewage disposal which conforms to modern requirements and does not perpetuate the older method of land fouling with its attendant risks to the public health of the district. While this may increase the already high cost of construction it is money wisely spent and failure to do so may have repercussions of an unpleasant nature.

I wish to thank the Council and the Clerk for the courtesy and help which they have given me in the past year.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

J. H. C. BIRD.

ANNUAL REPORT OF SANITARY INSPECTOR

SESSIONS HOUSE,

USK, Mon.,

22nd July, 1947.

Mr. Chairman, Gentlemen,

I beg to submit my Annual Report on the work carried out in the district during the year 1946.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA.

Houses	251
Re-inspections	236
Nuisances	96
Cowsheds and Dairies	322
Water Supplies	381
Food Inspections	28
Disinfections	15
Disinfestations	7
Factories & Work Places	28
Miscellaneous	113
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	1,477
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HOUSING.

1. Inspection of Dwelling-houses during the year :—

- (i) (a) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health Housing Acts) 251
- (b) Number of inspections made for the purpose 251

- (ii) (a) Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 251
- (b) Number of inspections made for the purpose .. 251
- (iii) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation 5
- (iv) Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation 91
2. Remedy of defects during the year without service of formal notices :—
- Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers 68
3. Action under Statutory Powers during the year :—
- (A) Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936 Nil
- (B) Proceedings under Public Health Acts :—
- (i) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied 16
- (ii) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices :—
- (a) By Owners 12
- (b) By Local Authorities in default of Owners Nil

(C) Proceedings under Sections 11 & 13 of the Housing
Housing Act, 1936 :—

- | | | |
|---|----|-----|
| (i) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of
which Demolition Orders were made .. | .. | 5 |
| (ii) Number of houses demolished in pursuance
of Demolition Orders .. | .. | Nil |

OVERCROWDING.

Housing accommodation of the district is over-taxed, this being due to the influx of key workers and to the return home of members of H.M. Forces. Whilst the population remains fluid it is impossible to give a true figure of the number of houses which became overcrowded during the year.

HOUSING REPAIRS.

During the past 14 to 15 months the position regarding materials and labour available for repair work has rapidly deteriorated and it has therefore been found that only the most urgent of works can be dealt with. Concern is most felt about the lack of roofing materials, especially having regard to slates, and it has been found practically impossible for builders to obtain the number of slates, tiles, etc. which are needed for carrying out roof repairs in the district.

Work was commenced on the erection of 5 houses for private individuals. 12 houses had been commenced by Contractors building on behalf of the Council, 8 of these houses being practically completed during the year. Sites were secured and preliminary proceedings completed for the erection of a further 44 houses for the Council.

CAMPING GROUNDS.

A number of Caravans remain in the district and two further licences were issued, but it is hoped that the improvement in housing accommodation will finally allow the Council to clear the district of all Caravans which are now permanently pitched. Water supply and sanitary accommodation to these caravans is satisfactory.

SCHOOLS.

Schools are visited periodically and sanitation and water supply of most is satisfactory. It is to be hoped that the Schools now without a piped supply of water will benefit by the possible extension of piped supplies in the Rural district.

WATER SUPPLY.

Frequent samples were taken from the Public mains. Some trouble was experienced with the quality of water in the parish of Llanfrehfa Lower but the purity of supply was restored after a period of some three or four weeks.

COWSHEDS AND DAIRIES.

Particulars of premises on Register at end of year :—

Producers	172
Retailers	6

Cowsheds were frequently inspected and such matters as arose attended to. There is a welcome increase in the number of farms which now have a piped supply of water, this increase being mostly due to the Grants which are now available for the installation of such piped supplies.

NUISANCES.

A number of these were reported and investigated and all work remedied by both formal and informal action.

SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL.

One parish only is provided with a sewerage system, but the Council is to be congratulated upon the promotion of schemes for the installation of sewerage systems at Ponthir, Little Mill and Penpelleni.

REFUSE COLLECTION.

Refuse collection is performed weekly in two parishes only, but it is hoped that the Council will soon undertake a comprehensive scheme for the collection of refuse from the hamlets situate in the rest of the parishes in the Rural District.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

CYRIL MORGAN,
Sanitary Inspector.

